



**MINUTES  
OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CABINET  
TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2010**

Held At 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford

**PRESENT:**

J N Clarke - Chairman

Councillors D G Bell, J A Cranswick, J E Fearon, R Hetherington and  
Mrs D J Mason

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors S J Boote, C J Evans, R M Jones, A MacInnes, G R Mallender and  
S E Mallender

In addition 3 Members of the Public attended

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

C Bullett	Deputy Chief Executive (CB)
S Goodrich	Head of Revenues and ICT Services
A Graham	Chief Executive
S Griffiths	Deputy Chief Executive (SG)
D Mitchell	Head of Partnerships and Performance
N Morton	Head of Financial Services
P Randle	Deputy Chief Executive (PR)
D Swaine	Head of Corporate Services
P Wigginton	Member Services Manager

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

There were no apologies for absence

**60. Declarations of Interest**

There were none declared.

**61. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 January 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**62. Customer Services Partnership**

Councillor Mrs Mason presented the report of the Head of Partnerships and Performance reminding Members that at its November meeting, it agreed to prepare a business case for a shared Customer Service Centre (CSC) in order to evaluate the shared initiative when compared to keeping the existing service at the Civic Centre.

She went on to indicate that whilst there were costs associated with a shared CSC there were also issues with it remaining at the Civic Centre, including the need to refurbish the facility and some other significant parts of the building.

Commenting further, Councillor Mrs Mason outlined the advantages of moving to the shared facility in the centre of West Bridgford in the Police Station. In particular she referred to the more accessible nature of the new facility, the opportunity to occupy that part of the Police Station on a long term free rental for a minimum of 14 years and also the potential to improve the efficiency of joint staffing resources in the longer term to facilitate longer opening hours.

She added that further investigations had been carried out relating to the development of the remote customer service access points with a view to create longer opening hours to provide a more flexible service for the residents.

Councillor Mrs Mason indicated that should the proposals for the shared service proceed then the opportunity would be taken to consider the future strategic property vision for both the Depot site and the Civic Centre. This would help the Council to further improve the efficiency and sustainability of low operating costs enhancing its value for money ethos.

Councillor Cranswick supported these comments and commended the business case referred to in the report. He indicated that relocating the CSC at this stage, enabled the Council to look at the future potential of its assets, safe in the knowledge that the most difficult service to relocate had already been taken care of.

He indicated that the estimated cost of providing the shared service at the Police station would be £797,500 and the cost of developing the remote customer access points (spokes) would be up to £450,000. This expenditure had already been committed but the opportunity would be taken to carry out the work at the same time to ensure the necessary branding was achieved to enable the spokes to be recognised as Borough Council facilities. He indicated that the expenditure referred to could be accommodated from within the original budget of £2m for the CHUB proposal and the remainder would be returned to Council balances.

He went on to confirm that if the CSC were to stay at the Civic Centre, there would be some considerable refurbishment costs, however they would be major costs within the next five years to make the building fit for purpose.

In summary he was convinced that the proposal for a shared centre with the Police was the best option for the Council and its residents.

The Chairman strongly supported these comments and indicated that the Council would be actively pursuing partnership initiatives of this type for the significant efficiencies they bring. In his view, the proposal represented good value for money for the council tax payers and would only enhance customer services and access throughout the Borough.

Councillor Fearon supported the proposals and indicated that the initiative presented the Council with many exciting opportunities in addition to a positive business case.

The Chief Executive indicated that although officers had been undertaking preliminary work on the initiative, if approved by Cabinet the work would be progressed as quickly as possible.

RESOLVED that

- a) the business case to work in partnership with Nottinghamshire Police to develop an integrated customer services facility within the existing West Bridgford Police Station at the estimated capital cost of £797,500 be agreed;
- b) further investigations into the development of the remote customer access points with findings be reported back to a future meeting; and
- c) the Chief Executive be requested to identify future accommodation opportunities to maximise the future revenue income from the current asset portfolio.

### **63. Improvements to Public Conveniences – Bridgford Park**

Councillor Cranswick presented the report of the Head of Revenues and ICT Services relating to proposals for the replacement of the public toilets in Bridgford Park West Bridgford. He indicated that the proposal, estimated to cost approximately £79,600 would refurbish and extend the existing facilities to create four unisex toilets. In addition, the prospect of providing a new kiosk or park office was also being considered, which would enable a degree of supervision to be given to the new toilets.

He emphasised that this was an in principle agreement to the proposal and that detailed consultation would be undertaken to achieve the best scheme possible. He went on to stress that the proposal formed the basis from which the consultation would be based to ensure it was focused and had a clear purpose.

The Chairman supported these comments and indicated that the outcome of the consultation process would help inform the design of the new facility.

As a concluding remark, the Chief Executive indicated that it was important to be clear about the reasons for the consultation, that the proposals were to promote discussion and inform the introduction of improved public conveniences

RESOLVED that

the scheme be approved in principle, subject to the outcome of the consultation exercise to be undertaken with interested parties and community groups.

#### **64. Financial Plans and Strategy 2010/11 to 2014/15**

Councillor Clarke presented the report of the Head of Financial Services indicating that this report was the outcome of a comprehensive budget consultation exercise involving Members and residents in the Borough.

He stressed that this consultation exercise had involved all Members by way of six workshops. Furthermore an external exercise had been conducted with a panel of representative residents to get the communities view.

Councillor Cranswick indicated that the Council was experiencing significant financial pressures due to the present economic situation, particularly with reductions in income and the prospect of reductions in the Government's grant. He also indicated that the Council had continued to suffer from loss of receipts from investments. The Government had advised that the country had pulled out of recession and achieved a 0.1% increase in terms of Gross Domestic Product instead of the 0.4% growth widely expected. This meant that the country was not recovering as quickly as originally anticipated and that interest rates would take even longer to recover to pre-recession levels.

Councillor Cranswick went on to indicate that as part of the budget setting process the Council's medium term financial strategy had been reviewed highlighting the need to find savings of up to £1.2m for 2010/11. He reported that efficiency savings had been identified by Managers in the sum of £760,000 without a detrimental effect on frontline services. Further savings had been identified and examined at the member and resident budget workshops leaving targets of £100,000 in 2010/11 with more savings required from 2012/13 onwards.

By referring to the report, Councillor Cranswick stated that Cabinet were advised that it was proposed to try to identify further savings in the next 2/3 years and initiatives like the 'fit for purpose' review would help to achieve some efficiency savings. The Capital Programme had been designed to support the Council's priorities and Councillor Clarke indicated that the main aim of the overall strategy was to provide and achieve a better balanced budget which was sustainable in the medium term, but this would only be possible if the savings were achieved.

Councillor Cranswick referred to the options for savings which had been prioritised as a result of the extensive consultation undertaken involving Members, residents, and also the Rushcliffe Youth Assembly

He suggested that items numbered 1 to 6 and item 8 in table 1 be proposed to Council for approval as further savings. In addition item 7 would be included, but amended to cover only the introduction of evening parking charges of £1 on Monday to Saturday, excluding parking charges on Sunday. In addition it was suggested that items numbered 9 and 10 in Table 2 be proposed to Council for approval.

As part of the consultation process, Councillor Cranswick indicated that residents' views had been sought on the possible level of increase of council tax. This resulted in a suggestion of £2 being agreed by residents as a reasonable amount. In view of this it was proposed that Council Tax be

increased by £1.98 per year which was the equivalent of £113.22 on a Band D property generating an extra £88,000 income.

He went on to report that including these items and the items set out in the report would eliminate the need for financial savings in 2010/11 and 2011/12 but would still need further savings for 2012/13 onwards of £700,000.

The Chairman concluded that he believed the budget represented a balanced budget in terms of the current economic climate and the continued financial pressures the Council were under. He supported the budget and indicated that despite a very modest proposed increase in Council tax, the Council would be continuing to provide excellent value for money services to its residents.

RESOLVED that

Cabinet supports and proposes to the Council for approval:

- i. the capital programme as set out in Annex 1 of the report and that officers be authorised to take the necessary steps to implement the first two years of that programme;
- ii. the prudential indicators as set out in Annex 2 of the report;
- iii. delegation to the Section 151 Officer the authority to effect movements between the separately agreed authorised and operational limits for external debt in respect of external borrowing and other long term liabilities, in accordance with optional appraisal and best value for money for the authority;
- iv. the revenue estimates for 2010/11 as shown in appendix 5 of the report, amended by all the relevant savings initiatives in TABLE 1 (excluding introducing Sunday charging) and including options 9 & 10 from TABLE 2 as detailed in Annex 3 of the report and shown in 'Appendix 3d' circulated at the meeting and including the contingency provision, proposed at £180,000 based on the financial strategy as set out in Annex 3 of the report and supported by the detailed budget book;
- v. to take the necessary steps to implement option 7 for Monday to Saturday, increases in car parking charges in West Bridgford subject to compliance with the necessary notice periods
- vi. a level of Council Tax of £113.22 on a Band 'D' property for general Borough purposes, with the consequent use of £519,253 of revenue balances;
- vii. the medium term financial strategy as set out in Annex 3 of the report;
- viii. the treasury management strategy as set out in Annex 4 of the report;
- ix. the efficiency plans as set out in of the report.

## **65. Draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan**

Councillor Mrs Mason presented the report of the Head of Community Shaping indicating that a Member Panel had been set up to look at key issues relating to Climate Change. She explained that the Member Panel had drafted a strategy and action plan which were now before Cabinet for consideration and approval

The draft strategy and action plan had been reported to the Community Development Scrutiny, who with very minor changes had supported it and referred it to Cabinet for approval.

In conclusion, Councillor Mrs Mason referred to the action plan detailing the proposed timescale for implementation. For purpose of clarity the Deputy Chief Executive (SG) confirmed that the issues highlighted as short term were expected to be dealt with within a year, medium term within 3 years and long term, longer than 3 years.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Cabinet approve the draft strategy and action plan ; and
- b) the Head of Community Shaping in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio holder be authorised to prioritise the tasks within the Action Plan having regard to their impact and the resources required for delivery.

## **66. Designated Public Places Order – Radcliffe on Trent- Consultation Findings**

Councillor Fearon presented the report of the Head of Community Shaping reminding Members that in December 2009 it was agreed to carry out a consultation exercise with a view to making a Designated Public Places Order in Radcliffe on Trent. He reminded Members that the Order would provide Police with additional powers to deal with the problems being experienced as a result of people drinking in public places.

The extensive consultation exercise involved residents, the Parish Council, the Police, the County Council, Radcliffe pub watch and the Neighbourhood Watch network. In total there had been 101 responses which had been appraised as highlighted in the report. The consultation identified that 98% of respondents were in support of the making of the Order.

Subject to Cabinet support, a report would be referred to Council for a final approval of the Order. If the order was agreed by Council, a newspaper advertisement would need to be published advising when the Order would be effective from.

The Chairman supported the initiative and indicated that it would not affect people drinking and behaving responsibly, however it would help the appropriate agencies in preventing and deterring alcohol related problems.

RESOLVED that

the creation of a Designated Public Places Order for Radcliffe on Trent, under section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, be supported and referred to Council for approval.

**67. Hawksworth Conservation Area Review**

Councillor Bell presented the report of the Head of Planning and Place Shaping indicating that in line with government requirements, appraisals and reviews of boundaries were being undertaken for all the Conservation Areas in the Borough. As part of the review of this area, a public exhibition had been held and feedback had been received from residents and the Hawksworth Parish Council. Following this consultation, a slight revision of the boundary was now proposed which still met the need to bring it in line with government guidance.

There was a statutory duty to advertise the proposed changes in the local press and the London Gazette. All properties in the areas affected by the changes would be advised in writing.

Councillor Bell indicated that the proposed reviews would meet the Council's objectives, in particular to protect, preserve and enhance the natural built environment of the Borough.

Councillor Cranswick as Ward Member for the area indicated that the Parish Council were broadly in agreement with the proposals.

RESOLVED that

pursuant to Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, changes to the boundary of the Hawksworth Conservation Area be designated as shown on the plans at Appendix 2 of the report and notice be given in accordance with the statutory requirements.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN